



# Child Abduction T.I.P.S. (Training, Information, Practices & Strategy)

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## **Federal Bureau of Investigation**

One of the tools the Federal Bureau of Investigation (“FBI”) provides during a Child Abduction is the Cellular Analysis Survey Team (“CAST”).

The mission of CAST is to support local, state, federal, and tribal law enforcement investigations through the analysis of Call Detail Records (“CDR”s) and their associated tower information. CAST members are highly trained and certified through a rigorous process to acquire cell phone evidence, as generated by the cellular providers, and collect network survey evidence in a manner usable in a court of law.

CAST is comprised of Special Agents and Task Force Officers in the field and at FBI Headquarters who have received Historical Cell-Site Analysis training as well as extensive training in radio frequency theory, cellular telephone networks, and cellular network data. The team has experience in analyzing large volumes of cellular call detail records and cellular site information for every major cellular provider.

CAST can assist your agency during a missing child investigation with Historical Cell Site analysis, Cell Tower Dumps, Geo locating, Consultations, and Courtroom Testimony.

Historical Cell Site analysis may help determine the location of the missing child, subject(s), and witnesses before, during, and after the abduction. CAST uses Historical Cell Site analysis to assist in proving, or disproving, the accuracy of a subject or witness statement. For cases in which the subjects or witnesses are not cooperative with investigators, this analysis is also used to historically track the movements of an individual.

CAST utilizes Cell Tower Dumps to identify the cellular telephone number(s) utilized at the area and time surrounding the abduction site and any other sites of investigative interest. CAST will conduct an analysis

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## Stopping an International Abduction in Progress

A reported abduction in progress triggers two competing imperatives: to act quickly to prevent the child's removal to another country, from which it will be more difficult to recover the child, and to act carefully to verify the facts before intervening, so as not to interfere with a parent's lawfully exercised right of custody.

What can be done when someone is reporting an international abduction that is imminent or already in progress? A good source of information is the U.S. Department of State's Office of Children's Issues, which has a Prevention Branch that can be contacted 24/7 at 1-888-407-4747 or [PreventAbduction1@state.gov](mailto:PreventAbduction1@state.gov). Their number one recommendation is that a parent with reason to believe his or her child is being, or will soon be, abducted should obtain a clearly written court order prohibiting the child from traveling outside the United States. When such an order is in place, Prevention Branch officers can enroll the child in the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Prevent Abduction Program and work with airport police, Customs and Border Protection (CBP), the FBI, international airlines, and other law enforcement agencies throughout the country to prevent international abductions in progress.

In California, local district attorney child abduction units also can help to coordinate among the various agencies involved in attempting to stop an abduction in progress. For instance, recently, the child of a same-sex couple living in the United Kingdom was abducted by one parent and taken to San Francisco. Within 24 hours of their arrival, they were scheduled to fly from Los Angeles to China. The left-behind parent in the U.K. had contacted an attorney in San Francisco, who was working to register, in California, a U.K. court order barring the child's removal from that country. The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office helped coordinate among the various agencies involved, including the FBI and port officials at LAX. FBI agents contacted the abducting parent at LAX. They found grounds take the child into protective custody and place him with the Department of Children and Family Services so he could be reunited with his left-behind parent, and thus successfully prevented the child's further abduction to China.

For more prevention tips, go to <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/International-Parental-Child->

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### COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

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